

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 and 20-32 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-2, 6-8, 10-14, 16-18, 22-26, and 29-32 have been amended; and Claim 19 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. No new matter has been added.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 31 and 32 were objected to as containing informalities; Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 22-26, and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niitsuma et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0050782 A1, hereinafter “the ‘782 publication”) in view of Kuwahara (U.S. Patent 6,603,579 B1, hereinafter “the ‘579 patent”); Claims 2-4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘782 publication in view of the ‘579 patent and Kaneko et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0044298 A1, hereinafter “the ‘298 publication”); Claims 9 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘782 publication in view of the ‘579 patent and Suzue (U.S. Patent 6,618,166 B1, hereinafter “the ‘166 patent”); Claims 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘782 publication in view of the ‘579 patent, the ‘166 patent, and Toda (U.S. Patent 6,256,107 B1, hereinafter “the ‘107 patent”); Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘782 publication in view of the ‘579 patent, Yoshida (U.S. Patent 6,931,432 B1, hereinafter “the ‘432 patent”) and Huttenlocher et al. (U.S. Patent 6,011,905, hereinafter “the ‘905 patent”); Claims 15-17, 19-21, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘782 publication in view of the ‘579 patent and the ‘107 patent; and Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

¹ The amendment to Claims 1, 19, 23, 26, and 30 finds support at least in Claim 19 and in Figures 26, 28, and 30 and their accompanying text in the specification. The amendment to Claims 12 and 16 finds support at least in the specification at page 22, lines 15-18.

unpatentable over the '782 publication in view of the '579 patent, the '107 patent, the '432 patent, and the '905 patent.

Applicants wish to thank Primary Examiner Poon and Examiner Cheng for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representatives on July 23, 2008. During the interview, amendments clarifying the claims over the applied references were discussed. Claim amendments and comments similar to those discussed during the interview are presented herein.

Regarding the objection to Claims 31 and 32, Applicants have amended those claims as suggested by the outstanding Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to Claims 31 and 32 have been overcome.

Independent Claims 1, 23, 26, 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '782 publication in view of the '579 patent. However, Claims 1, 23, 26, and 30 have been amended to incorporate features related to those previously recited in dependent Claim 19. Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 1, 23, 26, and 30 recite novel features not taught or rendered obvious by the '782 publication in view of the '579 patent and the '107 patent.

Amended Claim 1 recites, in part, an image-forming apparatus, including

a format determination part configured to determine a transfer-time format of the image data to be transferred to the connected apparatus, based on the format information that has been acquired and that includes the information on whether the format of the image data is supportable as input by the connected apparatus;

an image quality selection part configured to select a level of an image quality at which the image data is transferred to the connected apparatus, based upon capabilities of the connected apparatus; and

an image data conversion part configured to perform format conversion of the image data to be transferred to the connected apparatus in accordance with the determined transfer-time format of the image data and the level of the image quality that has been selected.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to clarify that the image-forming apparatus includes an image quality selection part configured to select a level of an image quality at which image data is transferred to a connected apparatus, based upon capabilities of the connected apparatus. In view of this amendment to Claim 1, Claim 19 has been canceled.

Turning to the applied references, the '782 publication is directed to an image forming system that conducts arbitrary image processing on data obtained by reading a document image. The Office Action at page 49 concedes that the '782 publication does not disclose an image quality selection part configured to select a level of image quality at which the image data is transferred to the connected apparatus. Applicants respectfully submit that the '782 publication is silent regarding an image quality selection part configured to select a level of an image quality at which image data is transferred to a connected apparatus, based upon capabilities of the connected apparatus, as recited in amended Claim 1.

The '579 patent is directed to a facsimile machine that stores image data in an image memory and then transmits that data to a remote party. The Office Action does not assert that the '579 patent discloses an image quality selection part configured to select a level of image quality at which the image data is transferred to the connected apparatus. It is respectfully submitted that the '579 patent is silent with regard to an image quality selection part configured to select a level of an image quality at which image data is transferred to a connected apparatus, based upon capabilities of the connected apparatus, as recited in amended Claim 1.

The Office Action at page 50 relies upon the '107 patent to provide an image quality selection part configured to select a level of image quality at which the image data is transferred to the connected apparatus. The '107 patent is directed to a system arranged so that an outputting job is allocated from one image forming device to other devices of the

system. The ‘107 patent shows at Figure 8(d) an image quality setting screen. However, Applicants submit that the ‘107 patent is silent regarding an image quality selection part configured to select a level of an image quality at which image data is transferred to a connected apparatus, based upon capabilities of the connected apparatus, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the ‘782 publication, the ‘579 patent, and the ‘107 patent, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest an image quality selection part configured to select a level of an image quality at which image data is transferred to a connected apparatus, based upon capabilities of the connected apparatus, as recited in amended Claim 1. Applicants therefore submit that independent Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably defines over any proper combination of the ‘782 publication, the ‘579 patent, and the ‘107 patent.

Further, Applicants submit that amended Claims 23, 26, and 30 recite features that, although differing in scope from those recited in amended Claim 1, relate to the recited image quality selection part. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that no proper combination of the ‘782 publication, the ‘579 patent, and the ‘107 patent discloses or suggests an image data conversion part configured to convert image data received from a connected apparatus, a format of the received image data being based on generated format information as recited in amended Claim 23, selecting a level of an image quality at which image data is to be transferred to a connected apparatus, based upon capabilities of the connected apparatus as recited in amended Claim 26, and selecting a level of an image quality, by a second image-forming apparatus, at which image data is to be transferred to a first image-forming apparatus, based upon capabilities of the first image-forming apparatus, as recited in amended Claim 30. It is submitted that independent Claims 23, 26, and 30 (and

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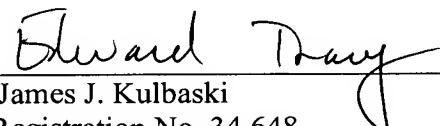
all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the '782 publication, the '579 patent, and the '107 patent.

With regard to the rejections of dependent Claims 2-4, 7, 9-21, and 27-28, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 2-4, 7, 9-21, and 27-28 over various combinations of the '782 publication, the '579 patent, and the '107 patent with the '298 publication, the '166 patent, the '432 patent, and the '905 patent, are moot.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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